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# Small Bites

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Where Are the Best Chinese Restaurants? »

## Restaurants Open on Christmas Day in Westchester, Rockl

December  
17

The Life&Style staff got together to put this list together a couple of years ago, and I just went through and updated it for this ye restaurant that's open Christmas, but it's a start. Know of more? Leave the information in the comments field. And, after the jun Christmas, including this one. Can you guess which it is?



Everyone knows you can head to the movies on Christmas Day. But what if you'd rather skip the popcorn in favor of a fancy par called hundreds of restaurants to find out which are open and what's on the menu, and here's what we found.

#### Westchester

Nearly every Chinese restaurant in the region is open for Christmas, but how many have an aquarium of fresh fish from which y Plains, for one. Owner Ricky Ho will offer the full range of his Cantonese menu, and he'll keep the doors open from 11 a.m. to 1 with any of the dim sum dishes, especially the chive cake, the shrimp shu mai and the pork dumplings. For entrees, try any of tl Residence Inn, 3 Barker Ave., White Plains. 914-288-0188.

Ready for a break from all that rich, heavy holiday food? A spare, clean round of sushi might be just the ticket. Jason Koo, the c serving his regular sushi and traditional Japanese fare on Christmas night. (He's closed for lunch.) Traditionally, it's a busy night reservations at least a few days in advance. 14 Marble Ave. Thornwood. 914-741-5100, [www.abisrestaurant.com](http://www.abisrestaurant.com).

Since he opened Aquario in 1993, Manuel Cabral has insisted on keeping his Portuguese and Brazilian restaurant open every i will include the regular fresh seafood dishes as well as two to three specials, including Portuguese-style catfish with shoestring seafood stew with lobster, jumbo shrimp, littleneck clams, scallops, mussels, calamari, fresh tomatoes, rice and a touch of cilan undergone an extensive renovation. Reservations are suggested, especially for Christmas Eve. 141 E. Lake St., West Harrison

At Bengal Tiger in White Plains, Christmas Day will proceed as usual – with a few specialties thrown in for good measure. The from the subcontinent – will be filled with the aromas of Southern and Northern Indian fare that it has been serving since 1975. buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., while the evening (from 5 p.m.) offers a pair of choices. Select from the regular menu or the include Attirachi Olathiyathu (boneless pieces of lamb stir-cooked with slices of white coconut, spices, herbs and curry leaves) . medium blend of spices and herbs with ripe mango and coconut milk). And there's no need to call ahead, as the restaurant will served) on this day, too. 144 E. Post Road, White Plains. 914-948-5191. [www.bengaltiger1.com](http://www.bengaltiger1.com).

Because the seafood menu at Caffè Regatta changes with what chef-owner Anthony Labriola finds fresh at the market, there's on Christmas Day. But we sure hope he's planning to offer his seafood tower, piled high with lobster, clams, oysters, crab legs anything on the menu, from a peppery arugula salad to a satisfying pasta dish, like Seafood Capellini. Labriola suggests reserv six, eight and 12 people. 133 Wolfs Lane, Pelham. 914-738-8686.

After the big feast at home, head over to The Candlelight Inn, where the mood will be as warm and casual as the rest of the ye; make them a new holiday tradition? Like 'em hot? Ask for Chernobyl. The restaurant opens at 8 p.m. No reservations, ever. !

Down by the Bay in Mamaroneck, the white-tablecloth seafood restaurant in a historic building that dates to the 18th century, w dishes such as horseradish-cranberry salmon, swordfish with sun-dried tomato and filet mignon. The restaurant holds about 55 Owner Abe Nasar says the restaurant serves eclectic, world cuisine – combining food and techniques from Italian, Chinese and great burger. While you're there, raise a glass to James Fennimore Cooper, who lived there from 1792 to 1811. 410 W. Boston

A turreted castle perched high above the Hudson provides an enchanted backdrop for your holiday feast at Equus, in the Castle lunch on Christmas Day – if you're lucky, the weather will be clear, offering you views straight to Manhattan. Fireplaces make the Room, which never feel crowded with a maximum seating of 45. Or, if you have a big family, request the Great Hall, which can offer a \$85 four-course, prix-fixe menu. Pair your decadent meal with one of 900 bottles from the wine cellar, and if you think you ahead to reserve one of 31 guest rooms and suites – five of which come with a wood-burning fireplace. The five dining rooms are trees, so it's a very popular place. Book your table now, reservations are very limited. 400 Benedict Ave., Tarrytown. 914-631-3

Halstead Avenue Bistro, known for its contemporary American cuisine, will be open for Christmas dinner from 2 to 9 p.m. The b quesadillas, panko- and coconut-crust halibut, veal and shiitake meatloaf, and butternut squash, spinach and goat-cheese rat lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles and shoestring potatoes. Make reservations for Christmas Day at least a week ahead. 123 Hale

At Hunan Village, the triple-cooked pork rib is cooked for 7 hours, and it gets so tender you "could cut the meat with your tongue" restaurant is one of the most highly regarded Chinese spots in the county, so it's very popular, especially on Christmas. Call at for one before 7 p.m., because after that, the crowds really start pouring in, says Luo. Once you're there, enjoy the white-tablecloth Macadamia shrimp, which is sautéed and served with sugar peas, is a favorite. 1828 Central Park Ave., Yonkers. 914-779-227.

Take a big crowd to Kang Suh, the Korean restaurant on Central Park Avenue, and order plates of bi bim bop, bulgogi and kalt down, the group gets little plates of goodies called panchan (on a recent visit, they included Romaine with a garlic-chili dressing with peanuts, spinach and garlic, fish cake with sweet dressing and mushrooms, kimchee and dried anchovies). Mix those up with good: rice and beef cooked in a stone casserole and layered with vegetables and a soft-cooked egg. Kang Suh, 2375 Central P

It seems only fitting that La Panetiere would be open for Christmas. Birthdays and anniversaries are celebrated year-round in this exquisitely landscaped corner of Milton Road, blocks from the beach in Rye. This Christmas, owner Jacques Loupiac is planning wines for each course. The a la carte menu also will be available. Seatings for Christmas dinner will be offered from noon to 1, possible. For a sneak peak at the Christmas menu before you make a reservation, visit [www.lapanetiere.com](http://www.lapanetiere.com). 530 Milton Road

Celebrating Christmas at Monteverde at Oldstone Manor in Cortlandt can add even more shimmer to this shiny holiday. Enjoy a country estate, centered with a restored mansion that was built in 1760 and now houses the restaurant, spa and inn. The Christmas fixe dinner. Diners may reserve between noon and 6 p.m. Monteverde's historic charm will be enhanced by holiday decorations and 6 West), Cortlandt. 914-739-5000, Ext. 1. [www.monteverderestaurant.com](http://www.monteverderestaurant.com)

When it comes to sushi in Scarsdale, everybody has been to Sakura. The blond wood and clean lines will give your eyes a break. Try the rainbow roll or anything with mackerel, order some warm sake and chill out. 58 Garth Road, Scarsdale. 914-723-7767.

Between 600 and 700 people are expected at Travelers Rest in Ossining, where the old mansion is decked out with trees and a doghouse is the centerpiece of the season. And if it snows, the illuminated waterfall makes the scene even more of a winter wonderland. Sauerbraten with dumplings or Wiener schnitzel are on the prix fixe menu, which offers a choice of appetizer, salad, entree and noon to 7 p.m., but the ones between 2 and 4 p.m. fill up fast. Route 100 between 134 and Random Farms Road, Ossining. 91-

With some of the best steaks in Westchester, the Willett House is always a great place to celebrate. On Christmas, the regular also offering some pretty spectacular specials: lobster ravioli carbonara or New England clam and corn chowder and a choice of skirt steak, pesto-crust Chilean sea bass and roast rack of lamb. A full dinner ranges between \$24 and \$55 includes, soup, is available between 1 and 9 p.m. 20 Willett Ave., Port Chester. 914-939-7500, [thewillettthouse.com](http://thewillettthouse.com).

#### Rockland

Most Chinese restaurants are open on Christmas, but Fortune Garden – hidden in the corner of a strip mall just west of the Nar county. (We've seen Wasabi chef-owner Doug Nguyen getting take-out). Go for the walnut shrimp (crispy and delicious with a mustard) or the filet mignon, which is served with vegetables and a black pepper sauce. If you're looking for a real feast, call at least Steve Mui says it's a busy day, but he'll still accept walk-ins. 179 W. Route 59, Nanuet. 845-623-0058.

Crispy duck, prepared in a choice of Thai styles (in coconut milk, curry or a garlic-chili sauce) might be a suitable choice for Christmas so daring? Stick to the pad Thai, a traditional noodle dish considered a signature here. The restaurant will be open during its regular p.m. for dinner. It's a popular place, so reservations are suggested. 93 Main St., Nyack; 845-358-8588, [www.kingandinyack.com](http://www.kingandinyack.com)

It'll be hard to decide what to feast your eyes on at Mount Fuji Restaurant in Hillburn – the beautiful, sweeping views of the Hudson festive decorations. The feast for the mouth might start with sashimi, and move on to a hibachi meals cooked tableside. Other specialties: Salad, a julienne of crab, shrimp and cucumber in a light rice wine vinaigrette and a big selection of sushi. Or go for the complete

appetizer, Japanese onion soup, garden salad, fried rice, noodles, vegetable medley and green tea. The restaurant is open for 357-4270 [www.mtfujirestaurants.com](http://www.mtfujirestaurants.com).

After long evenings of fancy meals at holiday tables, why not dig into some great pub grub for a change. At the Olde Village Inn you like 'em crispy) all are delicious, and fit the cozy, Irish-pub setting (check out the cool murals of the tri-state area and of Irel avocado salad – lettuce, onions, corn and avocado with a feta dressing or the Inne Salad with Cajun Chicken — and feel smug early. 97 Main St., Nyack. 845-358-1160.

If you've got a big crowd, head for the hibachi tables at U-Me Sushi & Hibachi, where 18 people can dine together and watch th chicken. (We like when they crack the egg to mix in with rice.) Some of the restaurant's most popular dishes are steak with shu roll and the Jazz roll, which has spicy tuna with crunches inside and eel and avocado with wasabi fish eggs outside. The restau Shopping Center), Nanuet. 845-623-3110.

#### Putnam

George Seitz, owner of The Arch, an elegant country restaurant that's surrounded by woodlands and herb gardens, always like spot near the stone fireplace and feast on items from his \$68 prix fixe menu. Options might include the foie gras and raspberry shank) with garlic linguine, and the famous Grand Marnier souffle. There will be four seatings (2, 2:30 p.m. and 4:30, 5 p.m.) ar possible. Route 22, Brewster. 845-279-5011. [archrestaurant.com](http://archrestaurant.com).

Ready for a break from all that heavy holiday food? Go for sushi. At Izumi, owner Rick Wong will offer his regular menu of sign: Roll: cucumber and avocado wrapped with caviar and lobster tempura. Got a big family? No problem. The hibachi table can se: advance. 1890 Route 6, Carmel. 845-225-8898.

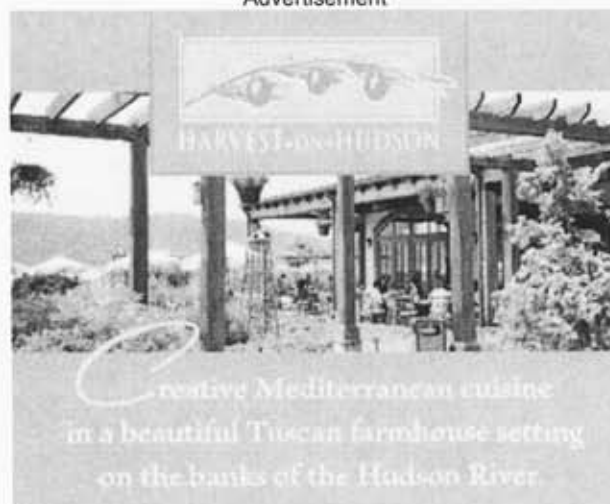
Christmas dinner with Charlie Chaplin? Not exactly. But Jaipore, the Indian restaurant that was also a speakeasy, housed one comedian filmed many movies using the building as a backdrop. The 160-year-old mansion now offers several distinct dining rc and artifacts from the subcontinent. This year's buffet will likely showcase foods from all four corners of India, including chicken spices), malai kofta (vegetable dumplings in a creamy cashew sauce), and lassoni gobi (batter-fried cauliflower tossed in a garl come at any time. 280 Route 22, Brewster. 845-277-3549. [www.fineindiandining.com](http://www.fineindiandining.com)

You couldn't ask for a more festive holiday setting than the one created every season by owner and Culinary Institute of Americ He and his family decorate two Christmas trees and adorn the 19th century building – once the home of noblewoman Marquise lights. This year, the restaurant will offer a four-course, \$68 prix fixe meal. You'll choose from five different appetizers, such as garlic butter, followed by a salad and an incredible selection of entrees that might include Colorado rack of lamb or venison me: the chef's luxurious desserts, before enjoying your digestif in the cozy oak-paneled bar. Dinner will be served from 1 p.m.-6 p.r Spring. 845-265-3904. [www.plumbushinn.net](http://www.plumbushinn.net).

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